

THE WASHINGTON POST Tuesday, Aug. 22, 1972
... RTom Braden

McGovern's Zig-Zag on Briefings

SEN. GEORGE McGOVERN is a little bit worried about the effect of his refusal to accept a briefing from Henry Kissinger.

McGovern's staff is worried, too. They do not want it to appear that McGovern is unwilling to listen to the facts. But neither do they want Kissinger or President Nixon to be able to criticize McGovern for campaign statements which they might allege are based on secret briefings.

It was this last reason which caused McGovern to turn down the presidential offer. If his refusal seems to evoke a negative public reaction, McGovern can still accept the Kissinger briefing. Meanwhile, he has designated Paul Warnke, formerly deputy to Clark M. Clifford, President Lyndon B. Johnson's last secretary of defense, to accept the briefing on his behalf.

Circumstances indicate, however, that McGovern underwent several changes of heart about the Kissinger briefing. Originally, McGovern accepted the invitation and a date was set in his Senate office. That had to be canceled because it

was scheduled during the week when the nominee was occupied with the Eagleton affair and with choosing a new running mate. Kissinger then suggested another date and got the Warnke nomination in reply.

IT WAS President Nixon's idea that Kissinger should brief McGovern at the beginning of the campaign and that thereafter the job should be taken over by the Central Intelligence Agency director, Richard Helms. Briefings by the CIA have been given to presidential candidates not in office since 1952. In that year, CIA's Office of Current Intelligence briefed candidates Dwight Eisenhower and Adlai Stevenson. In 1956, the same office briefed Stevenson. In 1960, CIA Director Allen W. Dulles personally briefed candidates Richard Nixon and John Kennedy. In 1964, Republican candidate Barry Goldwater declined to be briefed. But the pattern was restored in 1968 for both Hubert Humphrey and George Wallace though Director Helms did not carry on the Dulles

precedent of doing the job himself.

McGovern's change of mind about the Kissinger briefing avoided what might have been an embarrassing confrontation. It is difficult to imagine Kissinger telling McGovern about the quantity of bombs dropped on Vietnam during a given week without provoking McGovern's sense of outrage.

The senator from South Dakota believes that the Nixon-Kissinger policy of trying to hammer North Vietnam into accepting their terms by turning the country into a bomb pit is immoral. Moreover, he thinks it will not work.

IN ADDITION, he is suspicious of Kissinger's frequent trips to Paris. He sees them as a sign of desperation. If North Vietnam has not accepted President Nixon's terms by October, McGovern thinks it possible that the President and Kissinger will soften their terms, perhaps to the point of tossing South Vietnam's President Thieu overboard. Thus the President could go before the electorate having fulfilled his promise to end

the war. His terms would be McGovern's terms, camouflaged no doubt by language. In any event, such a move would destroy one of McGovern's principal campaign issues and might destroy his chance of getting elected.

So much for the way McGovern sees Kissinger. Kissinger, on the other hand, views McGovern as the man who stands between himself and a negotiated settlement. The President's latest terms are the best that have ever been offered. Kissinger expected North Vietnam to accept them. Kissinger believes that the only reason the enemy continues to refuse them is the possibility that George McGovern will be elected and offer better terms.

McGovern and Kissinger are acquaintances who see each other occasionally in Washington. But events have made them natural enemies. Each believes that the other is dead wrong. Each believes that the other is secretly plotting his downfall. Under the circumstances, perhaps it is just as well that a formal confrontation will not take place.

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17 August 1972

INTELLIGENCE BRIEFINGS OF PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

	<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Briefer</u>	
1952	Eisenhower	30 Aug	OCI	
		25 Sept	OCI	
		between 9-12 Oct	OCI	
		25 Oct	OCI	
	Stevenson	30 Aug	OCI	
		15 Sept	OCI	
		1 Oct	OCI	
		20 Oct	OCI	
	1956	Eisenhower	Incumbent	
		Stevenson	10 Sept	OCI
17 Sept			OCI	
1 Oct			OCI	
29 Oct			OCI	
Kefauver		30 Sept	OCI	
		7 Oct	OCI	
		28 Oct	OCI	
1960		Kennedy	23 July	DCI
			19 Sept	DCI
	2 Nov		DDCI	
	Johnson	28 July	DCI	
	Nixon	Incumbent V.P.		
1964	Johnson	Incumbent		
	Goldwater	Declined		
	1968	Nixon and Agnew	12 Aug	Pres., Rusk, Vance, DCI
Humphrey		Incumbent V.P.		
Wallace		26 July	Rusk, Nitze, McConnell, DCI	
Maddox		21 Aug	Rusk, Clifford, DCI	



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WASHINGTON STAR

13 AUG. 1972

McGovern to Get Briefing on War

By SAUL KOHLER

Newhouse News Service

Sen. George McGovern will accept a White House briefing on foreign policy and the Vietnam war, despite warnings from his staff that President Nixon "is not the Wizard of Oz" and the intelligence community is far from infallible.

The briefings were offered to McGovern immediately after last month's Democratic convention. The date was set for the candidate to meet with Dr. Henry Kissinger, White House foreign policy adviser.

But that turned out to be the day on which McGovern held his historic meeting with Sen. Thomas F. Eagleton, his former vice presidential running mate, and the Democratic standard bearer asked for a postponement.

McGovern adviser, Fred Dutton, said: "The whole myth that the President has much more information is bunkum. The press is on top of it as much as the intelligence community.

"So long as the candidate knows this and keeps in mind that as a United States senator he knows a good bit himself, he'll not fall into any traps."

Dutton said that because of his own political activity in the McGovern campaign, he would not attend the briefings, and that the senator probably would be accompanied to the White house by retired Gen. James Gavin and former Assistant Secretary of Defense Paul Warnke.

Dutton said he doesn't believe that a briefing by Kissinger, no matter how intense, would inhibit McGovern from commenting on the administration policy in Southeast Asia and elsewhere.

"After all, they're not going to turn over the code keys for the nuclear devices," he commented.

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AREA OR COUNTRY(S)	ORGANIZATION	FUNCTIONS - PURPOSES	PERSONNEL	DATE:
HQ	White House	Briefing	EISENHOWER, D.	13 Aug 72
	CIA	Presidential Briefing	STEVENSON, A.	
	DCI		KEFAUVER, F.	CLASS: None
	DDCI		KENNEOY, J.F.	
	OCI		JOHNSON, L.B.	NO.:
			NIXON, R.M.	
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File of press clippings concerning Intelligence Briefings of Presidential and Vice Presidential Candidates. Also a summary of past briefings.			HUMPHREY, H.H.	
			WALLACE, G.	HS/HC-848 ✓
			AGNEW, S.	
			MADDOX, L.	
			MCGOVERN, G.	
			KISSINGER, H.	
ABSTRACT				
The clippings in this file pertain to the 1972 campaign. The list is a resume of candidates briefed in previous years with dates and briefers listed.				